

Power of We Consortium
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2010

Present: Louise Wing, Bob Sheehan, Darla Dowker Jackson, Dean Sienko, Kathy Kelly, Marion Owen, Marcus McKissic, Randy Bell, Marvin Cato, Tiffany Leischner, Hazel E. Speckin, Demphna Krikorian, Robin Miner-Swartz, Randy Rauch, Joan Jackson Johnson, Hiram Fitzgerald, Diana Rouse, Patricia Wheeler, Marian Bryant, David Wiener, John Melcher, Micki Fuhrman, Katie Ellero, Eric Shovein, Payal Ravani, Doak Bloss, Renee Canady, Bill Nelton, Desiree Kirkland, Suzanne Eman-Jaehnig, Nancy Oliver, Mary ZumBrunnen, Emily Thompson, Chad Badgero, Andy Cease, Olga Hernandez Patino, Frank Medrano, Jon Coleman, Peggy Roberts

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Jon Coleman. Jon noted the full attendance and welcomed all. Introductions around the table were made and brief announcements were invited:

- Ad Hoc State Revenue Work Group: Bob Sheehan gave an update/follow up to the bi-partisan caucus held in the PWC meeting last month; a handout was distributed. The ad hoc group has met once so far and recognized that this is a state-wide problem and the defined purpose to focus on three issues:
 - The development of a clear and concise view/stance/argument in favor of a sound, fair, and resilient state revenue system – the system needed to ensure a civil society
 - The development of methods to support action by PWC members and their stakeholders and partners:
 - Tools that will be shared with PWC members for their use in this effort
 - An information sharing and support/resource system
 - The linking of this local effort to the broader, statewide initiative through:
 - Establishing ties to the statewide groups coordinating this effort
 - Sharing the PWC-developed tools with other community collaboratives across the state

Bob requested PWC members think about how State revenue has impacted their recipients. The next ad hoc meeting: 4/30/10 at 1:30 at CMH; all welcome.

- Jon Coleman distributed his letters to State Rep. Joan Bauer regarding funding for Michigan's deteriorating transportation system.
- Nancy Oliver, Michigan Prison Re-entry Initiative: RFP is due by Friday, April 23
- Doak Bloss: Openings to attend the social justice workshop; contact Doak Bloss (887-4503).
- Terry Link: Greater Lansing Food Bank location is moving, and shared the agency's wish list for donations.
- Micki Fuhrman: Second annual Ingham Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition youth talent show, all welcome: 4/27/2010, DeWitt High School.
- Dave Weiner: Last week that people can mail in their census forms; please encourage all to submit; each one submitted brings in \$1000 to our community.

I. Learning About Our Community

A. Primary and Behavioral Care Integration Project

Ingham County Health Department has contracted with CEI-Community Mental Health to provide Behavioral Health Services to existing clients in a Federally Qualified Health Center setting. Philip Wilkinson, Ingham County Health Department – Health Center Administrator, and Barb Starling, CEI-Community Mental Health, will share how patients who utilize this service become more responsible for their health and well being than those who do not. We will also learn how these services are enabling patients to be integrated into a family practice setting utilizing the services of their primary health care.

Barb Starling, CMH, gave a background on the services that are now offered by CMH staff within the Ingham County Health Department clinics to patients with mild, mental illness. Currently, there are three therapists in the health center sites, working w/the primary care provider. She added that these services were offered in the past by CMH until funding cuts canceled them, but that CMH may in the future reinstate primary care outpatient counseling in the main CMH building for mild mental health clients.

Phil Wilkinson, Administrator for the Sparrow and St. Lawrence Health Centers shared information about the behavioral health treatment w/CMH, and pointed out that a patient's need for mental health services becomes evident when they come in for treatment at the health department. The project has been operating for 5 months now. They have filled 605 appointments, 139 patients have undergone mental health assessments, and 341 patients were referred to CMH for follow up counseling. The program (planned for over three years) is successfully treating mild mental illness in patients with a history of non-compliance, homeless patients, and poly-substance abusers. There are three therapists working at three health center sites. Phil also shared some information about ICHD's FQHC status (Federally Qualified Health Center) which provides increased funding for services at the ICHD Health Centers where they primarily focus on family practice healthcare needs in addition to the new Behavioral Health Care service. Bob Sheehan commended ICHD as an example of a very comprehensive treatment center.

B. Power of We Consortium's VISTA and AmeriCorps Programs

The Power of We Consortium supports the County's priority to promote environmental protection and smart growth, as well as the County's support for neighborhood revitalization. To that end, the Consortium has invested in both VISTA and AmeriCorps programs, bringing the talents of many volunteers in national service to our community.

- *Mary ZumBrunnen, VISTA Project Coordinator, will discuss the Project and the community-wide impacts of service on the Lansing area. VISTA member Chad Badgero will share experiences from his first year of service at Old Town Commercial Association and plans for 2010-11.*
- *Emily Thompson, AmeriCorps Project Coordinator, will speak about the rationale behind the PWC's new environmentally-focused AmeriCorps program, accomplishments during the first few months of the program, and plans for the summer. Andy Cease, AmeriCorps member completing an invasive species removal project with Ingham County Parks, will talk about his year of service and why his project benefits Lansing-area residents.*

Mary ZumBrunnen initiated her presentation by providing an explanation about how the two programs differ: AmeriCorps members provide primarily direct-service support to host site organizations around the community. VISTA members provide primarily indirect capacity building service to organizations with a primary focus on poverty alleviation. Mary shared the many benefits to the community as demonstrated by increased volunteer recruitment, and dollars spent in the communities where the programs are offered.

The VISTA program has currently has the capacity to provide 18 members to community and faith based organizations located in Ingham County. They currently have eight slots filled, and anticipate filling more in November once the temporary "freeze" is lifted.

Emily Thompson reported that AmeriCorps has 9 full-time members placed and will fill several short-term summer positions.

VISTA member Chad Badgero shared the many successful projects in Old Town such as corridor and neighborhood revitalization/clean up, community gardens, numerous projects with root group residents of Old Town, as well as monthly, community events. AmeriCorps member Andy Cease provided an overview of his work with the Ingham County Parks and Recs program. There will be two group service projects in May: the walkability project at the Capital lawn, and invasive species removal.

Renee Canady commended these two programs and stated they are a good example of the public health work that PWC conducts for this community.

II. Updates

A. Infant Mortality Coalition

Members of the Ingham County Infant Mortality Coalition will share their most recent data, particularly the numbers that demonstrate high rates of disparities between Black and White deaths in our community. Lisa Chambers, Ingham County Health Department, and Sandy Geller, Sparrow Hospital, will discuss the partnership with area Emergency Departments and Urgent Care facilities, in efforts to support the pregnant women served by those providers. Additional time will focus on a recent grant by the Genesee County Health Department to provide free prenatal education classes to first time mothers.

The Ingham County IMC is made up of representatives of organizations throughout the Capital Area who are dedicated to addressing increasing disparities of infant mortality rates in our community. The coalition does this by working to address issues that impact infant mortality, including access to prenatal care and smoking cessation.

Lisa Chambers, co-chair of the Ingham County Infant Mortality Coalition, presented a PowerPoint program that demonstrated the disparity of infant mortality ratio amongst black and white babies. For example, in Ingham County a black baby is almost four times as likely to die before its first birthday when compared to a white infant. However, new data shows that white baby deaths in Ingham County are increasing.

Sandy Geller, co-chair of the Ingham County Infant Mortality Coalition, also presented. She shared that recent grant funding allowed for a study on pregnant women who came to the hospital E.R. department for treatment at which time pre-natal health issues became evident. Subsequent prenatal education classes for high risk women were coordinated, in addition to other resources: connecting mothers to health care services and community based supports, dental treatment, and stress management. In addition to the collaboration with the emergency departments, Sandy cited other work being done with a Genesee County grant, and the work through the March of Dimes grant.

B. MPRI event

Nancy Oliver, Community Coordinator for the Capital Area Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry program will provide us with information regarding an upcoming community education and outreach event targeting at-risk youth/individuals ages 13-25, their families and community members. This event will also be facilitated through the assistance of the Lansing Police Department and the Michigan Department of Corrections and will be a groundbreaking opportunity for those in attendance to communicate directly with prisoners currently housed in the Bellamy Creek Correctional facility via a live feed to the Dart Auditorium.

Nancy Oliver shared a PowerPoint presentation, which demonstrated the essence of the work that is being done, for the first time ever, between the Lansing community and the prisoners who will soon be released and re-entering the community. LPD Lt. Frank Medrano shared the success stories that have developed since LPD's work at developing a trusting relationship with the prisoners before they come back to the community. They encouraged PWC members to identify youth (age 13-25), and their families, to attend the May 27th panel discussion facilitated by LPD, LCC, and family/friends and community members, with a live video feed with the inmates currently at the Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility. For more information see www.camw.org/calendar.

Meeting Adjourned.

**The next *Power of We Consortium* meeting will be held on May 21st, 1:30 pm,
at the Human Services Building, Conf. Rm. A.**